

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 IO-14 SAB-01 SAM-01 NIC-01 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 ACDA-19

AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03 MC-02 EB-11 TRSE-00 CIEP-03 DRC-01

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R 171444Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2584

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF

1. SUMMARY. OVER LAST FEW DAYS SOVIET PRESS HAS USED FALLOUT FROM RABIN'S WASHINGTON VISIT TO STRESS U.S. COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL AND TO SHARPEN IMPLICIT CRITICISM OF U.S. ME POLICIES. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESS HAS ACCOMPANIED COVERAGE OF RABIN MISSION WITH CHORUS OF ARTICLES CRITICIZING ISRAEL FOR CONDUCTING "PROVOCATIONS" AGAINST LEBANON, INCREASING TENSION IN
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GOLAN AND PLANNING RESETTLEMENT OF ARAB POPULATION IN

OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. PERIODICALLY PRESS (E.G., PRAVDA SEPTEMBER 14) HAS ALSO RAISED - ALBEIT USUALLY THROUGH REPLAY OF ARAB PRESS VIEWS - POSSIBILITY OF NEW ISRAELI AGGRESSION AGAINST ARABS.

3. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, TREATMENT OF RABIN MISSION HAS EMPHASIZED U.S. STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL (WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO REMARKS BY PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY) AND HAS HOMOED IN ON U.S. AGREEMENT TO SUPPLY ISRAEL WITH NEW ARMS. TASS STORY (PRAVDA, SEPTEMBER 16) CONFINED WRAP-UP ON VISIT TO REPORT (CITING AP) THAT RABIN OBTAINED SATISFACTION OF "NEARLY ALL" ISRAEL'S REQUESTS, INCLUDING DELIVERY OF 50 "PHANTOMS" AND 200 TO 250 M-60 TANKS. EARLIER TASS REPORT (IZVESTIYA SEPTEMBER 14) QUOTED WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN ON PRESIDENT'S AFFIRMATION OF CONTINUED U.S. ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL AND STRESSED THAT U.S. PRESS VIEWS PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AS MEANING U.S. WOULD DELIVER "OFFENSIVE" ARMS TO TEL AVIV.

4. THRUST OF DIRECT SOVIET COMMENT ON OUTCOME OF RABIN VISIT HAS BEEN TO CRITICIZE U.S. SUPPLY OF ARMS AS CONTRIBUTION TO INCREASED TENSION IN ME. IZVESTIYA'S MIKHAILOV (SEPTEMBER 13) CHARGED THAT IN CIRCUMSTANCES OF INCREASED ME TENSION, U.S. DELIVERY OF ARMS CAN ONLY SERVE THE DEMANDS OF ISRAEL'S "HAWKS." IN SAME VEIN IZVESTIYA TASS (SEPTEMBER 16) STORY ON RABIN'S RETURN MIXED REPLAY OF BEIRUT PRESS VIEW THAT RABIN VISIT "CANNOT BE SEEN AS STEP TOWARD ATTAINING PEACE" AND CLAIM THAT ISRAEL'S ARMS PURCHASES INDICATE AGGRESSIVE INTENT WITH ASSERTION THAT ARMS DELIVERIES TO ISRAEL ARE MOVING PEACE IN ME FURTHER AWAY.

5. COMMENT: SOVIETS' HEAVY PLAY ON U.S. COMMITMENT TO SUPPLY ISRAEL WITH NEW ARMS, ALONG WITH POINTED REFERENCE TO PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY AS ARCHITECTS OF U.S. POLICY, MAY WELL BE CALCULATED - WITH EYE TO IMPENDING FARUKY VISIT HERE - TO REMIND EGYPTIANS ABOUT STRENGTH OF U.S. COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL. IN MORE GENERAL SENSE, HEIGHTENED PRESS EMPHASIS ON "ONE-SIDED" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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U.S. POLICY APPEARS TO TAKE SOVIET LINE SOMEWHAT FURTHER TOWARD EFFORT TO POLARIZE U.S. AND SOVIET ME POSITIONS VIS-A-VIS ME PRINCIPALS AND TO REMIND ARABS ABOUT "TRUE FRIENDS."
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